Misappropriation of funds in the Seamen's Welfare Fund Organisation

*335. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the misappropriation of funds in the Seamen's Welfare Fund Organisation in the recent period;

(b) whether Government enquired into the irregularity and found some persons responsible for the same;

(c) if so, the details of the findings; and

(d) the action taken by Government against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A case of fraud of Rs. 50.00 lakhs committed on Seafarers Welfare Fund Society has been detected.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Seafarers Welfare Fund Society had invested in November, 1992 a sum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs under the Recurring Interest Re-deposit Plan with the Bank of Baroda. A deposit receipt for the sum was received from the Bank by the Society. In November, 1993 the Bank officials informed that no such FDR was issued by them. It transpired that a fraud had been committed. The Society filed a civil suit before the Bombay High Court against the Bank of Baroda for recovery of the principal amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs with interest. The Bank has remitted Rs. 50.00 lakhs towards the principal amount and Rs. 22,62,512.00 towards interest as against the total amount of Rs. 75,80,726.00 claimed by the Society. The difference between the amount calculated by the Bank and the Society has not been paid and the matter is pending before the Court.

On a complaint of misappropriation of funds filed by the Bank of Baroda, the Central Bureau of Investigation has investigated the case and filed charge sheet against five persons including the Senior Branch Manager of the Bank, General Secretary, National Union for Seafarers of India, Mumbai and one former Deputy Director General of Shipping, Mumbai. Departmental proceedings have also been

initiated against the former Deputy Director General of Shipping. The case is pending trial in the Court of the Special Judge, Greater Mumbai.

Recovery of Dues from Political Parties by ITDC

*336. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 2nd December, 1999 captioned "Politicians owe ITDC Rs. 43 crore";

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount incurred party-wise, item-wise and date-wise;

(c) what efforts have so far been made by ITDC to recover the amount due from the concerned people;

(d) what is the total amount so far recovered indicating the amount still outstanding (party-wise); and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The outstanding dues against the politicians and political parties are of Rs. 49.70 lacs only as on 31st March, 99 as per details given below:

(Rs. in lacs)

Political Parties	Indian National Congress and its wings such as NSUI, Indian Youth Congress etc.	28.97
Individual Politicians		20.73

These outstanding are for various periods ranging from 1979 to 1999. Rest of the outstanding dues are against other clients including Government, Public Sector Undertakings, Travel Agents Licencees etc.